

8.2.6 Residential Water Billing Rate Structures for Community Water Systems

Rate Structure	Population Served by System (1)	
	10,001 - 100,000	More than 100,000
Uniform Rates	56.6%	55.6%
Declining Block Rate	34.5%	24.5%
Increasing Block Rate	18.3%	27.5%
Peak Period or Seasonal Rate	1.3%	9.6%
Separate Flat Fee	26.8%	25.3%
Combined Flat Fee	5.2%	2.0%
Other Rate Structures	1.9%	3.7%

Note(s): 1) Systems serving more than 10,000 users provide service to 82% of the population served by community water systems. Columns do not sum to 100% because some systems use more than one rate structure. 2) Uniform rates charge a set price for each unit of water. Block rates charge a different price for each additional increment of usage. The prices for each increment is higher for increasing block rates and lower for decreasing block rates. Peak rates and seasonal rates charge higher prices when demand is highest. Flat fees charge a set price for water delivery, with no restrictions on use. Combined flat fees charge one fee for water and other charges, such as rental fees. Separate flat fees bill water and other charges separately.

Source(s): EPA, Community Water System Survey 2000 Volume 1: Overview, EPA 815-R-02-005A, December 2002.